

CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



June 2017

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FROM THE FIELD

Bronx Earth Science Students Put Knowledge into Action



Ninth grade students get background knowledge to understand the roles of Emergency Management and FEMA.

On April 3, staff from FEMA Region 2 led workshops for five 9th grade Earth Science classes at the New Visions Charter High School in Bronx, New York. To prepare them for an upcoming interactive exercise, Regional Preparedness Liaison Eric Goldman gave students an overview of Emergency Management and FEMA's work in particular. He also taught students how to reduce their risk and

vulnerability by implementing basic preparedness measures.

Later in April, Goldman returned to visit the same classes, but brought along Art Goetz, the Region's Private Sector Liaison, and members of the FEMA Corps team Topaz 7. The classes included a hurricane-themed Tabletop Exercise (TTX). Divided into groups—each group of students played a unique role and had its own assignments.

For example, Group A took on the role of the Office of Emergency Management, Group B was the Public Information Office, Group C was the local utility, and Group D was the Fire Department. To make the TTX even more realistic, students received maps of a fictitious town, and each group had to determine when and where to evacuate the town's residents based upon storm location, severity, length of forewarning, and other considerations.

The TTX gave students a better understanding of the practice of Emergency Management, and they learned how each entity must work together to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a potential disaster.

If you are interested in bringing your regional FEMA representatives to a school in your area, [look up their contact information here](#).



Students work together to evacuate residents safely during a TTX.

In Queens, Students Move Toward Preparedness



Students learn practical preparedness tips and get hands-on experience.

On April 7, Goldman, Goetz, and members of the FEMA Corps team Topaz 7 visited with fifth graders at Public School 33 in Queens, New York to teach students about basic preparedness.

Each fifth grade class divided into four small groups, and then students rotated through four stations in the school gym. The stations focused on boosting pet preparedness and making a Go-Kit, First Aid Kit, and a family communication plan.

Students spent fifteen minutes at each station, where they learned practical tips and got hands-on practice to get prepared. Students were able to ask questions and make a plan to get their families involved.

Learn more about activities in FEMA Region 2 [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scholarship Applications Due by June 30

The [International Association of Emergency Managers \(IAEM\) Scholarship Program](#) provides scholarships through a competitive process to full-time students working on degrees in emergency management, disaster management, or closely related fields of study. Awardees are selected based on applications from undergraduate and graduate students. To be considered for an award in this year's program, download the appropriate (undergraduate or graduate) [application](#) and return it with all required materials no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on June 30, 2017. Direct your questions to Scholarship Program Director [Dawn M. Shiley](#).



RESOURCES

Hurricane Preparedness Activities

Organization: Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH®)

Audience: Children and youth

Topics: Hurricane preparedness

Website: <http://www.flash.org/hurricanestrong/kids.php>

Description: The FLASH website has games, word searches, a storm tracker, and videos that engage children and youth to practice hurricane safety.

Podcast Examines Efforts to Protect Children in Disasters

Organization: Domestic Preparedness

Audience: Emergency managers and children's program directors

Topics: General preparedness

Website: <https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/healthcare/legislation-protecting-children-in-disasters/>

Description: This podcast featured a panel of subject matter experts, including Child Care Aware® of America staff Andrew Roszak, Child Care Aware® of Kansas Executive Director Leadell Ediger, and the immediate past deputy director of FEMA, Richard Serino. The podcast and accompanying article, "Legislation Protecting Children in Disasters" can be found on the website.

Preparedness App Helps Kids Cope

Organization: The National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Audience: Parents, child care providers

Topics: General preparedness

Website: www.nctsn.org/content/help-kids-cope

Description: This free app helps parents and child care providers learn what to do to help kids cope before, during, and after 10 disaster types. It is available for Android and Apple devices. Download it for free from [Google Play](#) and [iTunes](#).

Questions to Ask Your Child Care Program

Organization: Child Care Aware®

Audience: Parents

Topics: General preparedness, children's programs directors

Website: <http://usa.childcareaware.org/2017/03/parents-child-care-program-prepared/>

Description: This tool—available in English and Spanish—helps parents evaluate the preparedness of child care programs. Child care programs can also use this tool for self-evaluation of their emergency plans and processes.

Road Disruptions' Effects on Child Care

Organization: Child Care Aware®

Audience: Parents and children's program directors

Topics: General preparedness, transportation safety

Website: <http://usa.childcareaware.org/2017/03/bridge-collapse-atlanta-child-care-program-prepared/>

Description: In this blog post, Andrew Roszak, Senior Director for Emergency Preparedness at Child Care Aware of America, explains how tenuous some of our country's bridges are. He also offers proactive tips for parents and child care providers to consider as they plan for emergencies.

Tips for Teaching Young Children about Natural Disasters

Organization: Primrose Schools

Audience: Parents of children ages 2 to 5 years old

Topics: General preparedness

Website: <https://www.primroseschools.com/blog/using-books-to-teach-your-child-about-natural-disasters/>

Description: This website encourages parents to introduce preparedness into conversations with their children. It includes rationale, tips, and a list of books to use to spur discussion.

CONTACT US

Email: FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov

Online: <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

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Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

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